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WILLIAM WATSON GOODWIN  
*IN MEMORIAM*

Full of years, honored by many at home and in distant lands, beloved by his pupils and held in lifelong esteem by his friends both far and near, the oldest of the Hellenists of America passed tranquilly away in his home in Cambridge on the twelfth of June, after a life both happy and complete.

Few of her sons have served Harvard so long or loved her with a more zealous and constant fidelity than William Watson Goodwin. He graduated in the class of 1851; from 1856, when he returned from Germany, to 1860 he was tutor, and in 1860 succeeded Felton, who had held the Eliot professorship of Greek literature from 1834 until he became president of the university. At Oxford Gaisford was regius professor of Greek for forty-three years; at Harvard Goodwin was in active service for forty-one, and even after his retirement in 1901 at the age of seventy he continued, as professor emeritus, to give instruction in Plato and Aristotle for several years.

It was not much writing that gave Goodwin his fame. It was the quality of the few books he wrote, together with the sterling character and personal distinction of the man that won him the place accorded him by all. His *Greek Grammar* has commended itself to students of the language for forty years; and only he who has tried his hand at formulating a grammatical principle can appreciate the lucidity and precision that marks Goodwin's power of statement. For half a century the *Moods and Tenses* has been the standard authority of American and English students of Greek. The present generation can have no conception of the service rendered to Greek syntax by a book that swept away the clouds of abstract speculation that had gathered about the subject—clouds that lingered for years in Germany despite the work of Bäumlein and of Madvig. The *Moods and Tenses* is distinguished for clearness, sanity, and restraint. Though not at all points revolutionary or even novel, it laid the foundations on which has been raised much of the ampler and more detailed investigation of later works.

Goodwin was not a grammarian in the narrower sense. His knowledge of Thucydides was profound, his interpretation of Aeschylus marked by appreciation of literary value, his exposition of Plato and Aristotle searching and stimulating. He was a master in Attic law, and his study of this difficult province gives unique value to his editions of Demosthenes' *On the Crown* and *Against Midias*. He had a keen interest in archaeology and history, and he served for many years as vice-president of the Egypt Exploration Fund. He was the first Director of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (1882-83), and his lively interest in the welfare of Greece received recognition in his being named Knight of the Greek Order of the Redeemer. Few American scholars have been more widely honored than Goodwin. He received honorary degrees from Amherst, Columbia, Chicago, Yale, and Harvard; from Cambridge, Oxford, and Edinburgh; and Göttingen renewed his doctor's degree in 1905, fifty years after he had first received it. He bore all his honors with characteristic modesty. He hated all pretension, exaggeration, and perverse ingenuity. He disclaimed knowledge often where his knowledge was both wide and sound. The *doctor irrefragabilis* of Greek syntax was not likely to be vulnerable when he had to settle other than "*hoti*'s business."

Goodwin belonged to the generation of Child and Lane and Norton at Cambridge. Younger men will not have seen him often, for in his later years he did not frequent the gatherings of scholars. Only his friends know of the kindness and love, the grace and gentleness, that adorned him. Throughout all his days he wore the white flower of a blameless life.

HERBERT WEIR SMYTH

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